

52

NEW YORK TIMES

DATE 19 Oct. 86

PAGE 11

Around the World

Bolivian Says Americans Will Start Leaving Soon

LIMA, Peru, Oct. 18 (Reuters) — Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal of Bolivia said Friday that about 170 American troops involved in an anti-cocaine drive would begin leaving Bolivia next week.

Mr. Bedregal, in Lima for a meeting of the Latin American Economic System, said at a news conference that all the troops would be withdrawn by Nov. 25, leaving Bolivia with five or six Bell helicopters and trained pilots to continue the fight against drug trafficking.

The American troops and six Blackhawk helicopters have been in Bolivia since July 14, providing logistical support to the local police in a major drive against cocaine production in one of the world's main producer countries.

Mr. Bedregal said the Bell helicopters were being substituted for the Blackhawks, which had proved too sophisticated for the operation.

He said Bolivia had drawn up plans for a \$400 million three-year campaign to fight drug trafficking and had proposed to the United States that it meet 84 percent of the cost.